Psychology of Addiction, PsycE-1420
Harvard University Extension School
Spring 2011
Preliminary Syllabus

Instructor: Gene M. Heyman, PhD.
Teaching Fellow: Verna L. Mims
Meeting time and place: Thursday, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, TBA
Email: gmheyman@mclean.harvard.edu, vmims@fas.harvard.edu
Course website: http://isites.harvard.edu/course/ext-22233/2011/spring

Required texts

(2) Articles will be available on course website and through HOLLIS.

Grading
Undergraduates: Exam 1: 35%, Exam 2: 45%, Reaction papers 20%
Graduates: Term paper 25%, Exam 1: 25%, Exam 2: 30%, Reaction papers: 20%

Reaction papers
Each student is responsible for writing 4 reaction papers over the course of the semester. The reaction papers should be 1 to 2 double-spaced pages, typed in 12 point Times font. The assignments are based on class readings and will usually offer a choice of topics. For example, a possible topic for the readings on smoking is “On the basis of this week’s readings, explain why people smoke cigarettes.” The reaction papers are due at the start of class and are graded on a three-tier scale: 0, 1, 2. Students who receive a “2” will receive full credit (20% of all possible course points). More information about the reaction papers will be presented in class.

Term papers
Graduate students have a term paper writing requirement. Paper topics must be approved by Professor Heyman. Term paper should include an abstract, a thesis statement in the first paragraph, and a reference list. Length is 10 to 12 pages. Use APA style.

Key dates
March 8 Midterm exam
April 12 Graduate student term paper topic proposal due
April 19 Last day to turn in graduate student term paper draft for feedback
May 5 Graduate student term paper due
May 12 Final exam
Schedule of lecture dates and topics

January 27, 2010 – Lecture 1. Introduction: Defining addiction, an overview of the topic, and course mechanics. “Addiction” identifies a self-destructive pattern of drug use. The popular understanding is that addiction is compulsive drug use (meaning involuntary). However, self-destructive behavior is not necessarily compulsive. Whether addictive drug use is voluntary or involuntary is an empirical question. To answer it properly requires an objective definition of compulsivity and a sufficiently rich account of the determinants of drug use. This course offers an objective definition of voluntary behavior, compulsivity and an account of the factors correlated with drug use.


Heyman, G.M. (2009). Chapter 1


How the nervous system works, selection. Pp.92-103:

McKim, W. A.: Chapt. 4 (pgs.57-74)


laws have failed: Heroin as an addicting drug (pp. 64-89).


**February 24 – Lecture 5:** Stimulants, reward, and dopamine

McKim, W. A. (2007). Stimulants, read selectively as discussed in class.


**March 3--Lecture 6:** Cognitive and subjective aspects of drug use: Craving, intoxication, cognitive deficits.


**March 10 – MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

**March 17 – No Class / Spring Break**
March 24 – Lecture 7. Alcohol 1. Introduction to alcohol and alcoholism and implications of genetic influences on behavior. Selected topics: The history of alcohol use, alcohol pharmacology and psychology, genetic influences on drinking. Does a genetic influence in alcoholism imply that it is a disease?

McKim, W. A. Chapter 6. Alcohol, read selectively as discussed in class.


March 31----Lecture 8: Alcoholism, recovery, and AA


April 7, Lecture 9: Addiction as a disease and the role of choice


Mazur: Selections on basic choice research

April 14, lecture 10---Smoking


April 21 – Lecture 11, Marijuana.


April 28, Lecture 12, Marijuana 2


May 5 – Lecture 13. Drugs, choice, values, & policy


Heyman, G. M. (Chapter 7).

May 12 – FINAL EXAMINATION